



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#18  
B. Webb  
12/1/01

In re application of : **ATTN: BOX CPA**  
Edwin Mellor SOUTHERN et al. : Docket No. 2000-0541  
Serial No. 09/559,402 : Group Art Unit 1655  
Filed April 26, 2000 : Examiner B. Sisson

**METHODS OF DETERMINING  
POLYNUCLEOTIDE INTRAMOLECULAR  
STRUCTURE (AS AMENDED)**

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

**RECEIVED**  
NOV 29 2001  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

**PRELIMINARY REMARKS**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants intend to file a preliminary paper in the new application responding to the grounds of rejection in the last Official Action.

The Examiner is kindly requested to postpone the issuance of a first Official Action in the new application while Applicants prepare this preliminary paper.

It would be very helpful to the Applicants if the Examiner would provide the Applicants' undersigned representative with an indication of the Examiner's deadline for issuing a first Official Action, if the preliminary paper has not been filed by the time the Examiner takes up the application for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin Mellor SOUTHERN et al.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Lee Cheng  
Registration No. 40,949  
Attorney for Applicants

LC/gtn  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
November 26, 2001